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and marvellous visitant in their realm to perform this office in their stead. Happily the comet of 1858 met perfectly the needs and desires of science. Visible through the telescope for more than nine months, and to the naked eye for more than four, it presented for the whole of the latter period peculiar advantages of position with regard to the earth's orbit, and during its perihelion, moonless nights, brief twilight, and an unclouded sky favored astronomers throughout the Northern hemisphere. In this department of labor, as is well known, our Cambridge observers have been pre-eminently successful, both as discoverers and as registrars of phenomena. Professor Bond has collected all the observations of the Comet of 1858 that have been made accessible, and has collated them with his own, thus giving a minute narrative of its appearances, movements, and changes for the whole time of its stay within our field of vision. The volume is illustrated with steel plates, in which stars and comets are represented by white on a black ground, with the most delicate shadings to delineate the nebulous cometary envelopes. We speak emphatically of these plates, because, though admirably executed, they owe their value, nay, the verisimilitude which constitutes their beauty, to the preliminary labor of the observatory and the careful superintendence of the author. Hoping to recur to this volume shortly, we leave it for the present, in the belief that, in his modest labors to advance the science he loves, Professor Bond is winning for himself a place among the foremost of its cultivators, and of those whose names will be durably associated with its progress.

17. — *The American Annual Cyclopædia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1861. Embracing Political, Civil, Military, and Social Affairs; Public Documents; Biography, Statistics, Commerce, Finance, Literature, Science, Agriculture, and Mechanical Industry.* New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1862. 8vo. pp. 780.

NEVER was a work more timely than this. Events have crowded upon one another so rapidly, have been so diversely narrated and interpreted, and have been learned with so much of that intense emotion which impairs the keenness of the cognitive faculties, that the history of the last year must lie very vaguely in the memory of our people, and must be represented by a series of impressions rather than by a succession of actions and incidents. The most important office of the volume before us is to furnish an accurate history of the civil and military events of the year to which it relates. This is done with great minuteness, with the tokens of all due care and elaboration, and

under titles so numerous and so apt, that it is impossible that one should look in vain for any item of information required. The names of persons, the names of places, the designations of subjects, general heads of description, matters of detail,—all are grouped in their alphabetical order, and yet the articles are so constructed as very seldom to overlap one another. At the same time, ample justice is done, independently of these exciting themes, to the ordinary course of the year's history. Nor does the work confine itself to this country; it takes adequate cognizance of the more momentous affairs and transactions of various nations, especially of France, Great Britain, and Italy. There is internal evidence of a divided authorship,—indeed, no one man could have prepared in so short a time so great a mass of materials,—and we can easily discern different degrees of skill in the different portions of the volume; but while some portions bear the marks of very superior ability, no part is poorly executed.

We would especially commend the plan of this work as an annual; and we have been at pains to give it this emphatic notice, in the hope that it will prove the first in a series that shall continue till it is superseded by something better of its kind. It fills a place which "The Annual Register" and "Niles's Register" could not fill for their respective countries, by virtue of its alphabetical arrangement, and the consequent ease of consulting it under the leading of a single name or word.

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18. — *Sketches of the Rise, Progress, and Decline of Secession; with a Narrative of Personal Adventures among the Rebels.* By W. G. BROWNLAW, Editor of the Knoxville Whig. Philadelphia: George W. Childs. 1862. 12mo. pp. 458.

THE "Decline of Secession" seems, it may be, a bolder prophecy now than it was three months ago, when this book was printed; yet we cannot think it any the less clear to the prescience of every sincere patriot. Parson Brownlow has won the right to use these words on his title-page, by his services, perils, and sufferings in behalf of the Union. The chief value of his book lies in its being the contemporaneous record of what its author saw, said, wrote, did, and endured. It consists in part of scraps of autobiography, but principally of speeches and newspaper articles which embody much of the history of the times, and will be of great worth to the future annalist. The writer commands our high respect as a man of massive, though unpolished intellect, of tenacious integrity of purpose, of no ordinary capacity in political satire, invective, and argument, and of a patriotism impregnable equally to bribes and to threats.